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SECURITY INFORMATION

German Democratic Republic

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FDD Abstract of [] 25X1A

25X1A ZEISS-IKON DRESDEN (3pp; German; [] date of info.: [] acquired in []
25X1X [] distr. date: 6 Nov 52.) 25X1A

25X1X This document, [] presumably from a [] 25X1X
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on the VEB (People-Owned Enterprise) Zeiss-Ikon, Dresden. The report gives the following information: Zeiss-Ikon is composed of four plants: No. 1, formerly Zeiss-Ikon; No. 2, Ernemann Plant; No. 3, Reick; No. 4, Mimosa. These plants employ respectively 150, 1,800, 800 (including 600 apprentices), and 250.

Plant No. 1 consists at present only of an administrative building. It is intended to concentrate camera manufacture here, but the buildings and machinery will not be ready by the proposed target date, namely, late 1952.

Plant No. 2 produces cameras, motion picture cameras, and projectors. 40 % of camera production is on the Kontax S, models A to C. These cameras are poor in quality and cannot compete with the West German product. They sell at HO stores for 2,000 Deutsche marks. Motion picture apparatuses Type D 1 (a modernized 7 B) is made here; Types AK 16 and TB 16 are soon to go into production.

Plant No. 3 produces aluminum, cast-iron, and plastic stampings; it also contains the apprentice shops.

Plant No. 4 makes the Mimosa II, the Tenax I, and the Erkona 6 x 9 cameras. The latter is approximately a copy of the Zeiss-Ikonta. These cameras are not a competitive article on the world market.

The financial situation of the Zeiss-Ikon Plant is quite shaky largely because many faulty Kontax cameras were returned from foreign markets.

The report states that Zeiss-Ikon is not engaged in armament production (bombing sights, etc.), although recently some organizational changes occurred which may indicate production of military optical items. The report says there is a plan afoot to concentrate all camera production at Zeiss-Ikon and to free the smaller camera factories (Niedersedlitz Camera Factory; Balda Factory, Dresden) for the production of military optical equipment.

25X1A The foreign language document or a microfilm of it (A 12149) is available from CIA Library, []

18 November 1952

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